

The Semi-Weekly Louisianaian.

"REPUBLICAN AT ALL TIMES, AND UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES."

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PROSPECTUS

Louisianian.

In the endeavor to establish another Louisianaian journal in New Orleans, the proprietors of the Louisianaian, propose to fill a necessity which has been long and sometimes painfully felt to exist. In the transition state of our people, in their struggling efforts to attain that position in the body politic, which we conceive to be their right, it is regarded that much information, guidance, encouragement, and reproof have been lost, in consequence of the lack of a medium, through which these deficiencies might be supplied. We shall strive to make the Louisianaian a desideratum in these respects.

POLICY.

Our motto indicates, the Louisianaian shall be "Republican at all times and under all circumstances." We shall advocate the security and enjoyment of broad civil liberty, the absolute equality of all men before the law, and an impartial distribution of honor and patronage to all who merit it. We shall support the doctrine of an equitable division of taxation among all classes, a faithful collection of the revenues, economy in the expenditures, conformity with the exigencies of the State or Country and the discharge of every legitimate obligation.

TAXATION.

We shall support the doctrine of an equitable division of taxation among all classes, a faithful collection of the revenues, economy in the expenditures, conformity with the exigencies of the State or Country and the discharge of every legitimate obligation.

EDUCATION.

We shall sustain the carrying out of the provisions of the act establishing a common school system, and urge upon the State the duty of the education of our youth, as vitally connected with the enlightenment and the security and stability of a Republican Government.

FINAL.

By a generous, manly, independent, and judicious conduct, we shall strive to make our paper, from an ephemeral and temporary existence, and establish it upon a basis, that if we cannot "command," we shall at all events "deserve" success.

ALBERT EYRICH,
Bookeller and Stationer,
108 CANAL STREET,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

THE GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL MESSAGE.

Continued from our Last.

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Executive Department,
New Orleans, January 1, 1872.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana: I, therefore, recommend the immediate passage of a bill authorizing the levy and collection of a tax for the support of the free public schools of New Orleans.

The report of the State Superintendent of Education, which shall in due time be presented to the General Assembly, will be found of great interest, and will give in detail the facts which justify the statements and recommendations herein given.

The reports of the State Auditor for this and the previous years, together with the reports of the State school authorities, show that large amounts of money have been lost by the loose and inefficient management of the school lands granted by Congress for educational purposes, and known as the sixteenth sections. From these reports it is apparent that new legislation on this subject is imperiously demanded, if these valuable resources are to be saved to the State. The matter naturally belongs to the State school authorities, and an enactment authorizing them to take the steps requisite for ascertaining the present condition of those lands, and for enforcing the claims of the school fund against the purchasers of such sections as have been sold, is the most feasible mode of protecting the interest of the State in that valuable grant.

LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES.

I respectfully call your attention to the fact that the extravagance of the Legislature at its last session has produced a most noticeable sensation throughout the State, and has given the opponents of the government the means of sowing distrust and producing the greatest dissatisfaction among the people. The last session is known to have cost the State, for the Senate, \$191,763 85, and for the House of Representatives, \$767,192 65—an average cost of five thousand three hundred dollars for each Senator and seven thousand three hundred dollars for each member of the House, or an average of over six thousand eight hundred dollars for each member of the entire body, or of one hundred and thirteen dollars and fifty cents per day for each member during the session. It is necessary that I should comment upon this subject with a view of bringing the evils to your attention, in order that you may guard against them in the future. A careful calculation of the expenses of the General Assembly for mileage and per diem, even at the enormous rate of twenty cents per mile, each way, shows that the total expenses ought not to exceed \$100,000 for the sixty days of the annual session, and the legitimate contingent expenses of both houses ought not to exceed \$25,000. Then what has become of the excess \$833,956 50? It has been squandered by the officers of the Assembly in paying extra mileage and per diem of members for days' service never rendered; for an enormous corps of useless clerks, pages, etc., for publishing the journals of each house in fifteen obscure newspapers, some of which have never existed, while some of those that did exist never did the work they were employed to do, although every one has received the compensation for it; in paying committees authorized by the House to sit during vacation and to travel throughout the State and into Texas, and in a hundred other different ways. The enrollment committee of the House had over eighty clerks, most of whom were under pay during the whole session at eight dollars per day, during which time only one hundred and twenty bills were passed which did not require more than eight or ten clerks to perform the whole labor of enrollment.

Permit me to suggest that neither house has any right to spend the public money for purposes for which the law has already provided. The publication of the journals of the General Assembly being provided for by the printing law, it was not competent for either house separately to direct and pay for such services. It is not legitimately a part of the contingent expenses of either house.

I will also venture to lay down a proposition which I believe to be sound policy as well as good law. The constitution limits the session of the General Assembly to sixty days. Both houses must adjourn at the expiration of this time. Can it in the face of the constitution continue its existence for a longer period, even by the joint action of both houses? Then if it can not for a longer period, how much less can either house, acting separately, continue the existence of a part of its body during vacation? I am clear in my conviction that neither house can authorize one of its committees to sit during vacation without the consent of the other house, with the approval of the Governor, or

without having passed a joint resolution to that effect over his objection by the constitutional majority. Hence it is that the action of the House in continuing five or six committees in session after the adjournment was not legal, even if the resolutions said by the Speaker to have been, had been legally passed. I will not discuss the question of whether they did pass the House, for I do not believe the House was competent to give any such authorization. A committee can only be authorized to sit during vacation by an act of the Legislature, properly approved in accordance with the constitution.

I state these facts to suggest the remedy. I recommend the passage of an act fixing the compensation of members, the rate of mileage and amount each member shall be paid; the number and character of the officers, clerks and employees of each house, and their compensation; defining what shall be considered contingent expenses, and limiting the amount for each house; the abolition of the office of warrant clerk, and providing that the members shall be paid in warrants drawn by the Auditor, as is customary in all other claims against the State; that vouchers, accompanied with the bill of articles, on showing the character of the services rendered, by what authority they were purchased or employed, shall be filed with the Auditor as his vouchers, and it shall be his duty to scrutinize and examine the bills to see that they are in accordance with the law. It is believed, after a careful calculation, that one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars is amply sufficient to pay all the expenses of a sixty days' session of the General Assembly.

REFORM.

The bitterness which existed at the inauguration of the present administration has, I am happy to say, entirely disappeared, and perfect tranquility now reigns throughout the State. No one is molested on account of his political opinions. A few personal difficulties occur now and then, perhaps, but they are incidental to any society, and are not attributable to political differences.

Our criminal laws, except in the city of New Orleans, are enforced with commendable promptitude. The disposition of jurors, with few exceptions, to convict individuals charged with offenses against the law, was never more manifest than now. Punishment for crime is administered to offenders with certainty and severity.

In the parish of St. Landry, where in 1868 a large number of colored persons were killed for differing on political questions, but a few weeks ago two young men, both white, were convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for life for attempting violence to a colored woman, notwithstanding she did not enjoy the best reputation.

At the same session of the court, out of fourteen criminal cases tried, but one prisoner was acquitted.

In the parish of DeSoto, while prisoners have been most severely punished for violence, and injury to colored people. So it is throughout the State. Justice is meted out with an even hand to all alike, giving the strongest evidence of the healthy tone of society, and the purpose of the people to secure equal protection to all, and to insure the honest enforcement of the law.

With this happy condition of affairs, we must look to the reformation of the many evils and abuses that have crept into our administration. The subject is one that calls for your most careful consideration and promptitude of action:

1. I recommend to you the modification of the registration law, in respect to the appointment of registrars and their compensation. The law should require them to be residents of the parishes for which they are appointed. They should be ineligible to any other office while they are in the discharge of their duties as registrars, and their compensation should be reduced and paid, together with that of the commissioners of election, by the parishes in which they serve; and on the subject of registration and election I repeat my recommendation of the last session.

2. The disregard of the rights of franchise evinced in many localities in the State in 1868 induced the Legislature of 1870 to resort to the most stringent measures for the people. The violent rancor of that period having now given place to a more liberal and just acknowledgment of the true relations of all our citizens, I commend to your consideration the modification of the registration and election laws to an extent that, while securing the inalienable rights of all, will make the usage under them less irksome and exacting to the few.

3. That the act giving the State Treasurer two thousand dollars per annum as receiver of moneys on public lands be repealed. To receive these moneys is legitimately a part of his duty as State Treasurer.

4. That the clerk of the First District Court for the parish of Orleans be paid a salary of six thousand dollars per annum by the city of New Orleans, and that he be allowed no fees from the State or city other than the salary for his services. The fees of this office amount to an enormous sum per annum.

5. I recommend a careful revision of the laws relative to costs of clerks, sheriffs, justices of the peace and constables. The fees under the present laws are so enormously high that in many instances they work a denial of justice. It should be made the duty of the judge of the court to examine and approve all fee bills before they are paid, and to declare the office of any sheriff or clerk vacant on detecting overcharges of costs.

6. I call your attention to my remarks on the subject of bribery in my last annual message. It is as follows:

"I ask your attention to the fact that there now exists on our statute books no adequate penalties against the crime of bribery. This defect should be remedied by appropriate legislation, which I sincerely hope the wisdom and patriotism of your honorable body will promptly devise. I am in receipt of information of acts of bribery on the part of public officials, but owing to the defect above named in the law, I am without the means of bringing the offenders to justice, or stopping the mischief. It has become a crying evil, and, if suffered to go on, will destroy the confidence of the people in government, and seriously endanger our liberties and highest interests. I hope that the General Assembly will enact some law on the subject, providing adequate penalties, and placing it in the power of the Governor to prosecute with vigor and promptitude all persons offering bribes, and officials receiving them."

7. I recommend a reduction in the compensation given for assessment and collection of the taxes of the State; that the two thousand dollars paid country tax collectors for listing the property be reduced to three hundred dollars each; that there be a board of four State assessors for the city of New Orleans, at a salary of five thousand dollars each, who shall make the assessment on the property of the city for the State; that the board shall also furnish a copy of the rolls to the city, which shall, with such modification as the city may make, be its rolls on which its taxes shall be collected, and that the Administrator of Assessments of the city of New Orleans be constituted ex officio president of the board.

8. I also recommend a modification of the printing law, by which the expense of printing the laws and journals in the country newspapers will be saved and that the price paid for printing be materially reduced. By such an act one hundred and fifty thousand dollars can be saved annually.

9. That the Metropolitan Police law be repealed, and an act passed organizing the police under a system similar to that in force on the adoption of the present, reducing their expenses to four hundred thousand dollars per annum, remitting the financial department to the city of New Orleans, and limiting the Metropolitan district to the cities of New Orleans and Carrollton.

10. The passage of an act giving to the city of New Orleans entire control of feeding prisoners confined within the parish prison of Orleans. The expense is now enormous, and can be greatly reduced if the city government is empowered with the control.

11. The act passed at the last session relative to a statehouse should be repealed, and the purchase of land on which to build a capitol should be annulled.

12. The institution for the education of the blind should, for the present, be discontinued. The State has no building for the accommodation of the pupils, and too few pupils to justify the expense of the institution. It is now simply an asylum, and if the inmates, whose families or relations are able to maintain them, were dismissed, there would be but very few dependent upon the charity of the State. The unfortunate people remaining should be provided for elsewhere.

13. Chief constables should not be allowed other compensation than the fees they receive for the service of summons of the execution of writs, etc., except when called into active service by the Governor.

14. That each parish judge be paid by the parish in which he resides and acts, that in this way the State treasury may be relieved of the expense.

15. I recommend that the act providing an annual salary to the secretaries, assistant secretaries, clerks, sergeants-at-arms, etc., of the General Assembly be repealed, and that these officers and employees shall receive only such daily compensation during the session as heretofore paid. In this manner you can save eight thousand dollars per annum.

16. I here reiterate my recommendation that an act be passed providing that all charters of railroad companies granted by the State be repealed. By so doing we shall release ourselves from the nominal contingent debt of over twelve millions of dollars.

CRIMINAL LAW IN NEW ORLEANS.

The secure enjoyment of life, liberty, reputation and property, and the peace and good order of society, depend upon the just, prompt and efficient administration of the criminal law for the prevention and punishment of crimes and offenses. There is a universal complaint of the failure of justice in this department of the law in the city of New Orleans. I would respectfully call the attention of the Legislature to this subject, in order that it may provide the remedy necessary to correct the evil.

The population of New Orleans, in its present extensive boundaries, including a very large floating population for the different States of the Union and from foreign countries, is probably not less than three hundred thousand persons.

It is obvious that one criminal court is insufficient for the prompt trial and disposal of all the crimes and offenses committed in such a community. Previous to the war, the then Attorney General suggested to the Legislature and expediency of creating two courts for the trial and disposal of crimes offenses; one to have jurisdiction in all cases of misdemeanor, and another in all cases of felony, or crimes punishable by death or imprisonment in the Penitentiary at hard labor. The suggestion was unhappily not then acted upon. That which was then expedient is now absolutely necessary for the safety and well-being of society. The city of New Orleans, notwithstanding adverse circumstances, has advanced considerably in general prosperity and in the number of inhabitants. With the increase of population crimes have multiplied.

There are now six Recorders in the city. Supposing each Recorder to send upon an average one case every day to the Criminal Court (a reasonable supposition if they discharge their duty), the number of cases to be disposed of every month would be, exclusive of Sundays 144. It is manifest that such a number of cases, and some of them cases of the gravest character, cannot be properly tried or disposed of by one court. I would therefore recommend the creation of an additional Criminal Court as above suggested; the adoption of this recommendation will not entail increase of expense, as the number of civil courts in the city of New Orleans is more than sufficient for the business of the community, and the abolishment of one of those courts, which I recommend, will save the cost incurred by the establishment of an additional criminal court.

GENERAL TOPICS.

The legitimate results of the reconstruction policy of Congress in this State may now be regarded as so far completed as to justify a final verdict upon it. Through this policy the government of the State was placed in the hands of its whole people. The effect of this was a good one. We were enabled to have an equal voice of our own government, to the end that all classes and races of people should have a chance to defend and maintain their civil and political rights.

The excitement and disagreements incident to this revolution in public affairs have naturally hitherto monopolized the attention of the Legislature and of State and municipal governments, to the neglect, perhaps, of other public affairs. This period of excitement, however, has passed. The questions that arose during it are now settled; an era of peace and good feeling has begun, at least in our State. All the people acquiesce in the changes wrought by the reconstruction measure. The civil authority of the State has ample power to enforce the law and preserve order within its limits. The temper and disposition of the people of all classes and political opinion are to sustain the authorities in the discharge of their duties. There is no need in Louisiana of any extraneous power or military force to assist the State authorities in maintaining order and enforcing law.

I have had no difficulty in securing the full support of the people of this State in the enforcement of all laws. I have no hesitation in saying that they are as loyal to the Union and as law-abiding as the people of any State, North or South.

The great depression in our industries, consequent upon the prostration following the war, still unfavorably affects the different interest of the State. The two great needs of our State are immigration and active capital. Louisiana is still an unoccupied territory for railroads. Soon her unequalled openings for railroad enterprise must attract that kind of enterprise, and with advancing railroads will come immigration and capital. When these come, her mineral and agricultural, will astonish even her own people.

In the meanwhile, I earnestly hope the General Assembly will co-operate with me in securing all the retrenchment possible in the expenditure of the State, that the burdens of taxation may be lightened and our people assisted to ride over the present momentary depression.

I reassert now the opinion which I have expressed in three successive annual messages, that the general government owes to the people of the South generally, and especially to the people of Louisiana, and of the lower Mississippi, national assistance in the rebuilding of the levees, and also in the construction of railroads. A small proportion of the aid which has been so

liberally granted to the Northern States in the last ten years, granted now in a judicious manner to our section would increase the production of our great staples many per cent, and do more to cement the kindly feelings now resuming their ancient sway in the hearts of our people than any enforcement bill.

It is also desirable that all disabilities and legal penalties inflicted on account of the late war should be done away with.

The number of persons who remain under congressional or constitutional disabilities is extremely small, yet as a steady toward complete reconciliation an act of full and final amnesty to all concerned in the war would have an important and salutary influence. The noble example of the State of Louisiana, which was the first State to expunge from its statutes all discrimination on account of differences in the past civil war, may be wisely and safely followed by the general government. The President of the United States has already followed it. I hope that you will instruct your Senators and Representatives in Congress to imitate him in this respect.

As the chief executive of the State, it is my duty to call your attention to a grave, illegal and dangerous abuse by certain federal officers of the official power, by using it to interfere in and attempt to control a political assembly of the citizens of this State, convened to deliberate upon State affairs. In other States, a very moderate and limited exercise of federal influence, extending only so far as the use of the federal patronage for the purpose of electing or influencing delegates to political conventions, has been met with severe and merited rebuke from the people, and has been thought serious enough to demand congressional investigation. In this State, federal interference in State matters has gone far beyond what it did in these States to which Congressional attention has been directed. It has embraced not only bribery, the use of patronage, and the active, undisguised interference of federal employees as such in political meetings, but in addition to these reprehensible acts, the federal appointees in this State, or many of them, have resorted to menaces, threats, the prostitution of United States building to factional party purposes to the exclusion of the business public and beyond this, even, what is unprecedented in the history of this country, the employment and presence of large numbers of armed deputy United States marshals, and of armed United States troops to interfere with, menace and control a political assembly of citizens of the State. I recite briefly the facts that are undeniable as to this monstrous outrage on the peace and dignity of the State. In a time of profound peace, without any competent authority, of the least necessity and without consultation with, or the consent of the State authorities, the United States officials here, in violation of law, convoked a political convention in the Customhouse in New Orleans, and this against the wishes and in the face of the solemn protest of a large majority of the convention. The doors of the Customhouse were locked and barred for a day, and the whole business public who had interest there were excluded.

United States deputy marshals, selected in many instances from rough and lawless characters, were especially deputized for the occasion, armed with loaded revolvers and stationed within the building and around the United States courtroom designated for the convention. The United States Marshal previously declared that they should be stationed within the convention itself. Their instructions had been such that these deputies were insolent and violent in language and manner toward the delegates even to such an extent as to excite serious disturbance, and going so far on the part of some of them as the offering of personal violence to the delegates.

United States troops were drawn in the Customhouse. Their very presence was an alarming attack upon the right of public assembly, and upon every tradition and principle of American liberty. They interrupted the deliberations of the delegates. This interference of federal officers, armed with federal authority and federal guns and pistols, in the affairs of a peaceful political meeting of the people of a State, is a very serious encroachment upon the peace and dignity of the State, and upon the individual liberties of its citizens. I can not suffer it to pass by without entering against it my solemn protest, and inviting you most seriously to join with me in asking the national government to investigate the outrages of its subordinate officers and to punish the guilty parties. A full statement of the matter has been laid before the President, and I can not believe that after a careful investigation he will disavow these lawless acts of his appointees, and dismiss the guilty ones from office.

The unanimous condemnation of these abuses by the press and the people of all parties throughout the country, and the general indignation which they have excited show that the people everywhere are alarmed at their occurrence. The American people have heretofore been extremely jealous of even the appearance of military interference or dictation in civil affairs. We can not too promptly or emphatically signify our disapprobation of the slightest step toward the predominance of the military over the civil authority.

H. C. WARMOTH,
Governor of Louisiana.

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